GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1091
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2003
WORKS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN CIL
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of works undertaken and the achievements of Coal India Ltd. as on date in the field of long term planning, conservation, research and development, production and sale;

(b) whether the Coal India Ltd. has conducted any new survey for opening new mines and re-opening closed ones;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total number of new coal mines opened and coal mines closed after nationalization of coal companies?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a): The details of work undertaken and the achievements of Coal India Limited regarding long term planning, conservation, research and development and production in Coal India Ltd. are as under:

(i) Long term planning: For each five year plan period, CIL in association with its subsidiaries, prepare its plan document for the plan period consisting of different physical and financial parameters. The plan document is discussed in the Ministry of Coal and Planning Commission and then finalised. The plan document is reviewed during its mid-term appraisal.

In CIL 416 projects (costing Rs. 2 crore and above) have been sanctioned till March 2003 since nationalisation, out of which 331 projects have been completed and 85 projects are under different stages of implementation.

During X plan period, 92 projects have been planned to be taken up.

(ii) Conservation: During mine planning, this aspect is considered for utilisation of coal resources with due regard to safety. Accordingly, method of work is selected and status of workings of overlying, underlying coal seams and workings of the same coal seam around the mine, for which plan is proposed are given due consideration. The plan is approved by DGMS considering all aspects of safety and conservation.

>From conservation and safety points of view, sand stowing is presently being done in 87 underground mines for coal extraction.

(iii) Research and development: Working group on coal and lignite for formulation of X five year plan has identified the following thrust areas for R&D in the plan period :

- Production, productivity & safety
- Coal exploration
- Underground mining
- Opencast mining
- Equipment development
- Underground coal gasification

44 S&T projects approved by SSRC are under different stages of implementation which are funded by the Govt. In addition, 16 R&D projects have also been taken up by CIL which are funded by its resources. These apart, new S&T/R&D projects are also being taken up.

(iv) Production & sale: After nationalisation, the achievement of Coal India Limited in production were as under:

(Figs. in million tonnes)

	1976-77 (actual)	2002-03 (actual)
Underground		
-Manual	64.87	19.54
- Mechanised	0.96	28.88
Total	65.83	48.42
Opencast		
- Manual	6.71	1.07
- Mechanised	16.94	241.20
Total	23.65	242.27
CIL total	89.48	290.69

As regards sales & marketing, CIL has achieved an offtake of 289.22 mt in 2002-03 and 166.08 mt in 2003-04 upto October'03 (provisional). CIL could maintain a steady growth in offtake and achieved a growth of 2.41% in 2002-03 over previous year. In current year (April-October'03) CIL achieved a growth in off-take of 3.35% over same period last year.

(b) & (c): Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd.(CMPDI) , a subsidiary of CIL, studies the scope of opening new mines in the virgin areas and in the continuing mines of CIL for new coal seams. This is a continuous process. As regard reopening of closed mines it may be mentioned that the closure of mines after nationalization was primarily on account of exhaustion of mineable reserves and on safety consideration, fire and inundation and techno-economic unviability.

As such, it is not possible to reopen such mines. With the present available technology, exploitation of the left out quantum of coal through re-engineering is not possible.

(d): The total number of new coal mines opened has been given in reply to part (a) above of the question.

The total number of coal mines closed after nationalization of coal companies are 178 as on 1.4.2003.